

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-13 and 16-20 were amended.

Amendments were made to the specification to correct errors and to clarify the specification. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments to the specification. Specifically, these amendments were made to correct an XML error in the electronically filed specification, which led to an incorrect rendering of these paragraphs as viewed in the image file wrapper (IFW). More specifically, the IFW copy leaves out a space after the words "Figure X" (where X is a figure number).

The claims were amended to correct a problem with the manner in which the dependent claims were rendered in the IFW. Although the original XML file submitted to the USPTO contained the proper claim dependencies contained within "<crossref>" tags, the claim dependencies failed to render in the IFW. Thus, these amendments do not make any substantive changes to the application as filed, but are intended merely to correct the IFW record so that the IFW will reflect the correct claim dependencies as present in the XML submitted to the USPTO.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: 18 May 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Michael R. Nichols  
Reg. No. 46,959  
Law Office of Michael R. Nichols  
3001 S. Hardin Blvd. Ste 110, PMB 155  
McKinney, TX 75070-7702  
Tel.: (972) 369-1300  
Fax: (972) 369-1301  
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT